



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS in Schools Helping Communities Prevent School Violence

"FREMONT IS A BETTER CITY TODAY

BECAUSE OF THE OFFICERS WE HAVE IN

OUR SCHOOLS. THE COPS IN

SCHOOLS PROGRAM HAS ALLOWED US

TO EXTEND COMMUNITY POLICING

FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOODS TO OUR

CLASSROOMS. THE EXTRA OFFICERS

WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE COPS

PROGRAM HAVE MADE A REAL DIFFER-

ENCE IN FREMONT. NOT ONLY ARE

THEY HELPING MAKE OUR SCHOOLS

SAFER, BUT THEY ARE MENTORS AND

POSITIVE ROLE MODELS FOR THE KIDS

WHO NEED THE MOST HELP."

- CHIEF CRAIG STECKLER,

FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

COPS Commitment to School Safety

Many communities are discovering that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. Community policing officers perform a variety of functions within the school including teaching crime prevention and substance-abuse classes, monitoring troubled students, and building respect between law enforcement and students. School Resource Officers (SROs) combine the functions of law enforcement and education.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has awarded over \$600 million to fund over 4,500 SROs through the COPS in Schools (CIS) program. These officers provide increased security at our nation's schools to reduce the fear of crime and educate students on crime prevention and delinquency. SROs serve as mentors, role models, and provide guidance to students.

CIS grants are awarded to law enforcement agencies that are required to partner with a school or school district. This partnership must define and utilize partnership strategies and community policing techniques to prevent school violence and implement educational programs.

Program Requirements

Funding:

The funding under this project is for the payment of salaries and benefits for three years for sworn, entry-level, career law enforcement officers. The maximum grant amount is \$125,000, per officer. Any anticipated costs over that amount must be paid with state or local funds. Funding begins when new officers are hired or on the award start date, whichever is later. Funds are distributed over the course of the grant.

CIS funding must be used to hire new, additional SROs, over and above the number of sworn officers that an agency would fund with state or local funds in the absence of the grant (including other SROs). Law enforcement agencies may not reduce their state or locally funded level of sworn officers (including other SROs) as a result of applying for or receiving CIS grant funding. Similar to other COPS hiring grants, grant recipients must develop a separate written plan to retain their COPS-funded officer position(s) at the conclusion of federal funding. The COPS Office will monitor retention for one full locally-set budget cycle following expiration of the federal grant.

Documentation:

All applicants must also submit a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the CIS Grant Program. The MOU is an agreement that defines the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved. Five key issues must be addressed by this document:

- The goals and objectives of the partnership,
- A clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities that pertain to grant requirements and administrative procedures,
- Specific grant program issues including chain of command, supervision, evaluation and assurances that at least 75% of the officer's time will be spent in and around the school on youth related activities,
- Partner involvement in community policing activities, and
- Any additional pertinent information.

The MOU must be signed by both the law enforcement executive and the school official who has general educational oversight and decision-making authority.

Agencies seeking funding under this program are also asked to submit a descriptive Narrative Addendum, used in the review and approval process. This Narrative Addendum must be a separate document and is in addition to the required MOU and Retention Plan. This document must address the following criteria:

- Problem identification and justification,
- Community policing strategies to be used by officers,
- Quality and level of commitment to the program, and
- Link to community policing.

CIS grants carry an additional Grant Condition that must be signed and returned to the COPS office along with the signed award documents. These grants require that the officer(s) deployed into the schools and one designated school administrator attend a COPS in Schools Regional Training Workshop. The COPS office will reimburse grantees (for the attendance of required participants) for the training, per diem, travel, and lodging for up to a maximum of \$1,100 per person.

Funding in FY 2002

On November 26, 2001 President Bush signed the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act providing total budget authority of \$1.1 billion for the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). This amount includes \$180 million for the COPS in Schools (CIS) program. Please visit our website for upcoming grant information.

Contact COPS

For more information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770, or visit the COPS web site at: www.cops.usdoj.gov.